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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional) P-2177	
<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]</p> <p>on <u>EFS-web -- 5 March 2007</u></p> <p>Signature <u>/James D. Ivey/</u></p> <p>Typed or printed name <u>James D. Ivey</u></p>		Application Number <u>09/888,222</u>	Filed <u>22 June 2001</u>
		<p>First Named Inventor <u>Samuel Yin Lun Pun</u></p> <p>Art Unit <u>2654</u></p>	
		Examiner <u>Angela A. Armstrong</u>	
<p>Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.</p> <p>This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.</p> <p>The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.</p>			
<p>I am the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor. <u>/James D. Ivey/</u> Signature</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96) <u>James D. Ivey</u> Typed or printed name</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. <u>37,016</u> Registration number <u>(510) 336-1100</u> Telephone number</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. <u>5 March 2007</u> Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____ Date</p>			
<p>NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.</p>			

<input type="checkbox"/>	*Total of _____ forms are submitted.
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<i>REASONS IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL CONFERENCE</i>	Serial Number	09/888,222
	Filing Date	June 22, 2001
	Title	Japanese Language Entry Mechanism for Small Keypads
	First Named Inventor	Samuel Yin Lun Pun
	Examiner	Angela A. Armstrong
	Art Unit	2654
	Attorney Docket	P-2177

Mail Stop AF
 Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

March 5, 2007

Dear Sirs:

REASONS IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL CONFERENCE

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-40 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent 4,531,119) in view of Krueger et al. (U.S. Patent 5,999,950) and Grover (U.S. Patent 5,818,437) and – with respect to Claims 25, 26, and 28 – Ho et al. (US Patent 6,307,541). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites “receiving one or more signals generated by the user which specify one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables.” The Examiner cited Table 5 in column 5 of Krueger et al. as teaching that user-generated signals can represent at least one phonetic symbol category that includes two or more syllables. However, nowhere in Table 5 or in the accompanying text does Krueger et al. teach or suggest that the user can specify a phonetic symbol category of two or more syllables. Instead, Krueger et al. teach that a user can specify a single syllable unambiguously by pressing a given key a given number of times. In particular, the user of the system of Krueger et al. can specify hiragana “ha” or hiragana “ba” or hiragana “pa” but cannot

specify a phonetic symbol category that includes “ha”, “ba”, *and* “pa.” Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 2-40 directly or indirectly recite similar language and are therefore similarly allowable.

Claim 2 recites that “the one or more phonetic symbol categories are each associated with a respective distinct consonant by including all syllables that include the respective distinct consonant.” The only teaching cited by the Examiner in support of rejecting Claim 2 is Nakayama et al. at column 3, lines 4-10. That paragraph of Nakayama et al. only describes which keys can be pressed to select from a number of candidate kanji derived from user-specified kana. Nothing in the cited passage teaches or suggests that a phonetic symbol category includes all syllables that include a particular consonant. As an illustration, Figure 3 of Nakayama et al. shows that each of the 5 kana that includes a “k” consonant sound is represented by a respective, different key: T = “ka”; G = “ki”; B = “ko”; H = “ku”; and * = “ke”. Nakayama et al. neither teach nor suggest any way that a user can specify a group that includes all of those syllables that include the “k” consonant sound. Claim 2 is therefore allowable for this additional reason. Claims 3-4, 10-12, 18-20 directly or indirectly recite similar language and are therefore similarly allowable.

Claim 29 recites that “each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories corresponds to a distinct respective row of a fifty sounds table.” As discussed above with respect to Claim 2, Nakayama et al. neither teach nor suggest any way that a user can specify a group that includes more than one syllable – i.e., that is ambiguous. Instead, Nakayama et al. teach only unambiguous user specification of syllables. Claim 29 is therefore allowable for reasons similar to those given above with respect to Claim 2. Claims 33 and 37 recite similar subject matter and are therefore similarly allowable.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable over any combination of Nakayama et al. with Krueger et al., Grover et al., and Ho et al., assuming arguendo that such combination is properly motivated in the prior art. Claims 1-40 are therefore allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
James D. Ivey

James D. Ivey
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 37,016

LAW OFFICES OF JAMES D. IVEY
3025 Totterdell Street
Oakland, California 94611-1742
Voice: (510) 336-1100
FACSIMILE: (510) 336-1122

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